



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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All records for gross receipts were broken at a single sale of Government-owned fur-seal and fox skins during the annual spring public auction held on April 29 by the Fouke Fur Company at St. Louis, Mo., the Fish and Wildlife Service reported today to the Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug. The total amount received was \$2,457,705.

For the account of the United States Government 28,032 sealskins and 307 fox skins from the Pribilof Islands were sold. Of the sealskins 14,512 were matara brown finish, 10,065 safari brown, and 3,455 black. The 307 blue fox skins were sold for \$4,549. This was the second sale of Alaskan sealskins since the OPA regulations were lifted.

Compared with the previous semi-annual sale held in October 1945, these new April prices represent an advance of 28 percent for matara,  $17\frac{1}{2}$  percent for safari, and 11 percent for black skins. The highest price for matara skins was \$114, with the average of \$92.49 for all; the highest price for safari was \$108.50, with the average \$83.37; and the highest for black was \$103, with the average \$78.68. Considering all colors and all skins the average price was \$87.51, or an advance of 22.2 percent over the October sale. The blue fox skins advanced  $12\frac{1}{2}$  percent over the October sale.

All of the Pribilof Islands fur-seal skins at the April auction were taken in 1943. Upward of 100 buyers were present and bidding was spirited at all times. This is the thirtieth year of sales by the Fouke Fur Company and its predecessor organizations as agents of the Government.